

**27th April 2025**

**Readings and Antiphons**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. 1 Pt 2:2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**First reading:** Acts 5: 12-16

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118(117):2-4. 22-24. 25-27a R.1**

Give praise to the Lord for he is good, his mercy endures for ever.

**Second reading:** Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

**Sequence**

**Gospel Acclamation: Jn 20:29**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia**

You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

**R. Alleluia**

**Gospel:** John 20:19-31

**Communion Antiphon: Jn 20:27**

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

**Pilgrims progress to Rome**

**20 September 2025**

Julia Bray is undertaking the Pilgrims' Progress Trek to Rome in Autumn 2025 to raise funds for Life, a charity supporting pregnant women and new mums. From initiating a Life volunteer group in Winchester to running a Life shop in Eastleigh, her journey reflects a deep commitment to Life's mission. Support her cause through her JustGiving page: [Click Here.](#)

**Care Not Killing Alliance**

Any outstanding petition sheets, please return to: Care Not Killing Alliance, 8 Marshalsea Road, London, SE1 1HL in order that arrangements can be made for the petitions to be presented to Parliament before the Leadbeater Bill's Third reading. It's looking more likely that the final vote on the Bill in the House of Commons will be delayed until either 16th May or later. Please feel free to use this website link ([click here](#)) OR the QR code [below] to send an even stronger message to Parliament.



**Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday - Year C**

**Pope Francis – Requiescat in Pace**

**Fr Mark writes:**

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew." (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 1)

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has spoken of two words which "are central to the response of Pope Francis to the vocation they received. They are mercy and hope."

I would agree but would add a third: joy. This is a joy which came from deep within Pope Francis, who knew he was loved by Jesus. When he was still a young man, Pope Francis had a powerful encounter with Jesus through the sacrament of reconciliation (confession), which gave him hope and changed everything. He had been able to accept Jesus's "offer of salvation" with open arms, and with that came a profound freedom and a joy that was constantly born anew.

For Pope Francis, Jesus wasn't some abstract principle or faraway historical figure, but rather someone alive and active in his own life, someone who never tired of offering forgiveness and mercy to this self-professed sinner. In the same encyclical, Pope Francis wrote, "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace". (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 3).

These were words which came from the Pope's heart and from his own experience.

Pope Francis loved Jesus, and he loved Jesus's people, his "flock". Just as he was close to Jesus, so also did he want to be close to his people, to take on "the smell of the sheep". Pope Francis seemed to come alive when he was with people. One of my fondest personal memories of him was in Lisbon for World Youth Day, when he encouraged the millions who were there to chant with him, "Todos! Todos! Todos!" ("Everyone! Everyone! Everyone!"). "That is the Church," he said. "There is room for all." As we know, he had a special love for those who are poor or most marginalised, those on the peripheries.

As we pray for Pope Francis, thanking God for his humble and bold ministry and service, and asking the Father to welcome him home, let me leave you with these words. They were written by Pope Francis himself and shared with the people in St. Peter's Square this Easter Sunday. Given that this was just the day before he died, they take on an added poignancy:

Today at last, the singing of the "alleluia" is heard once more in the Church, passing from mouth to mouth, from heart to heart, and this makes the people of God throughout the world shed tears of joy.

From the empty tomb in Jerusalem, we hear unexpected good news: Jesus, who was crucified, "is not here, he has risen" (Lk 24:5). Jesus is not in the tomb, he is alive!

Love has triumphed over hatred, light over darkness and truth over falsehood. Forgiveness has triumphed over revenge. Evil has not disappeared from history; it will remain until the end, but it no longer has the upper hand; it no longer has power over those who accept the grace of this day.

Sisters and brothers, especially those of you experiencing pain and sorrow, your silent cry has been heard and your tears have been counted; not one of them has been lost! In the passion and death of Jesus, God has taken upon himself all the evil in this world and in his infinite mercy has defeated it. He has uprooted the diabolical pride that poisons the human heart and wreaks violence and corruption on every side. The Lamb of God is victorious! That is why, today, we can joyfully cry out: "Christ, my hope, has risen!" (Easter Sequence).

The resurrection of Jesus is indeed the basis of our hope. For in the light of this event, hope is no longer an illusion. Thanks to Christ — crucified and risen from the dead — hope does not disappoint! Spes non confundit! (cf. Rom 5:5). That hope is not an evasion, but a challenge; it does not delude, but empowers us.

All those who put their hope in God place their feeble hands in his strong and mighty hand; they let themselves be raised up and set out on a journey. Together with the risen Jesus, they become pilgrims of hope, witnesses of the victory of love and of the disarmed power of Life.

Cont'd...

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday - Year C**

**Divine Mercy Sunday -  
Sunday 27th April at 3pm**

Will be celebrated at St Peter's on Sunday 27th April at 3pm with **Mass in honour of the Feast of Divine Mercy. The celebration will include the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Veneration of the Image.** In honour of The Feast a Plenary Indulgence will be granted to all who celebrate it, who fulfil the usual conditions of receiving the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion and who offer prayers for the Pope's intentions.

**There will be refreshments in the Pastoral Centre after the Mass and all are welcome.**

**Prayer Corner**

Let us pray that our Divine Mercy liturgies and devotions will enable us to grow our trust in God's mercy, bringing us closer to Him by His grace.



**Funerals & Deaths**

**Rex Chester RIP**

The funeral will take place on 27th May at 12.00 at the church of Our Lady, Warnford - the church is actually off the main road in Warnford Park - see the link here

<https://www.achurchnearyo.u.com/church/16882/>

**Violet Freeston RIP**

**Nicola Mancini RIP**

**Shirley O'Shea RIP**

**Sally Smart RIP** - Funeral Service at Chesil Suite on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm.

Please pray for their families and friends at this difficult time. May God grant them eternal rest.



**Parish Office:**

[office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**Finance:**

[accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**Tel.** 01962852804

**Newsletter:**

[newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) (deadline for items for the next newsletter - **Weds Noon 30<sup>th</sup> April**)

**Contacts**

For a full list of contact details for our Parish, please visit our website: [www.catholicwinchester.org.uk](http://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk) or email

[hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) to be directed to the correct person.

**Parish Priest:** Fr Mark Hogan

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Benedict Ndikum

**Deacons:** Tony Darlison & Martin McElroy

Christ is risen! These words capture the whole meaning of our existence, for we were not made for death but for life. Easter is the celebration of life! God created us for life and wants the human family to rise again! In his eyes, every life is precious!

...In the Lord's Paschal Mystery, death and life contended in a stupendous struggle, but the Lord now lives forever (cf. Easter Sequence). He fills us with the certainty that we too are called to share in the life that knows no end, when the clash of arms and the rumble of death will be heard no more. Let us entrust ourselves to him, for he alone can make all things new (cf. Rev. 21:5)! (Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi, 2025)

**Prayers for Pope Francis RIP and His Successor  
Prayer for Francis**



O God, faithful rewarder of souls, grant that your departed servant Pope Francis, whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church, may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven the mysteries of your grace and compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

**Psalm 120**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains: from where shall come my help? My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble! Let him sleep not your guard. No, he sleeps not nor slumbers, Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade; at your right side he stands. By day the sun shall not smite you nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil, he will guard your soul. The Lord will guard your going and coming both now and for ever.

**Canticle of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis) Luke 2:29-32**

At last, all-powerful Master, you give leave to your servant to go in peace, according to your promise. For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all nations, the light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people.

Prayers for the successor of Pope Francis

O God, who chose your servant, in succession to the Apostle Peter as shepherd of the whole flock, look favourably on the supplications of your people and grant that, as Vicar of Christ on earth, he may confirm his brethren and that the whole Church may be in communion with him in the bond of unity, love and peace, so that in you, the shepherd of souls, all may know the truth and attain life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Psalm 120 and Canticle of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis) © 1963 The Grail (England), HarperCollins Publishers Ltd. Used with permission.*

*Prepared by the Liturgy Office for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.*

**Fr Mark on Radio Solent!**

Fr Mark Hogan was featured on Radio Solent earlier this week - don't miss it! He shared some wonderful insights and reflections. You can listen back from 2 hours, 9 minutes, and 30 seconds into the programme Listen on [BBC Sounds Here:](#)

**Memorial Mass for Pope Francis RIP:**

Weds - 30<sup>th</sup> April, 10am, St Peter's Church

**Bishop's Pastoral Letter**

This weekend which will be shared under separate cover.

**Parish Bank details**

If you wish to make a payment or donation, please use the following details: Parish Bank Account Name:

**CDP St Peter & Winchester Martyrs, Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account Number:**

**00890996** & Reference details (eg: offertory, SVP, etc). You can also use the Contactless machine at the back of St Peter's or visit our website.

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday - Year C**

## Upcoming Events:

**Cake Sale:** There will be a cake sale and chocolate tombola at St Gregory's Church, Alresford after Mass on Sunday 27th April. Donations gratefully received.

**Charity Lunch at St Gregory's, Alresford —Tuesday 29th April 2025.** Come and support the BOAZ Project (who help adults with learning difficulties at their farm based near Sutton Scotney) at a Soup and Pud Lunch in St Gregory's Church Hall from 12.30pm to 2pm. All welcome. Donations gratefully received.

**THANKYOU from the CWL (Catholic Women's League)** to all who supported April's Charity Soup & Pud Lunch, which raised £174 for their CWL Charities. The next Charity Lunch will be held in the Pastoral Centre, 12.30 - 2.00pm, on Friday 2nd May, and money raised will be for Lanterns Nursery, who specialise in supporting children with additional needs. All are very Welcome

**Diocesan Formation Days for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & for Readers.** Further formation days will be running on 3rd May and 18th October 2025 at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke. Anyone interested is encouraged to register via: [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**Laudato Si:** Caritas and CAFOD are holding a joint event at St Peter's on Saturday 10 May from 10am to 1pm to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si. Please register before the event. For further details, [Click Here](#).

**Significant Anniversaries Mass**—Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or an anniversary over 60 years? If so Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration on Saturday 21st June at 11am at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. Please send an email to: [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to request a form to complete and return. Please upload a copy of your wedding photograph when you return the form, or post a copy of the photograph with your completed form, to St Bede's Parish Office, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX.

## First Holy Communion 2025–2026 – Information Evening

 When? Monday, 19th May |  7:00–8:00pm

 Where? Pastoral Centre Hall, St Peter's Church

If you're a parent or guardian of a child currently in Year 3 and would like them to prepare for their First Holy Communion next year, we warmly invite you to this important information evening. This evening is especially for families who haven't had a child on the programme in the last two years.

Most children making their First Holy Communion are in Year 4, but if your child is currently in Year 2 and you feel they'll be ready next year—and your family attends Sunday Mass regularly—please do get in touch. We also welcome enquiries about older children.

 **Contact us at:** [fhc@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:fhc@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

## Upcoming Courses:



**Life in the Spirit Seminars - from 3rd May '25 (9-14 yrs):** what it means to live your life in the power of the Holy Spirit. Sessions will include games, praise, teaching, discussion, and prayer. This is a 5-week course which will run until Pentecost. Saturdays 10.30am - 12noon Milner Hall at St Peter's Church, Age: 9-14 yrs For more information or to sign up please contact Rosanne: [rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**Online Life of the Spirit Course: Organised by CHARIS:** Portsmouth Diocesan team will run on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm beginning 8th May until 26<sup>th</sup> May.. Registration is now open. Contact: [rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

### **Called to Love: Masculine & Feminine , 9-11 May 2025**

A weekend for young adults, whether single, dating or engaged couples, exploring the nature of masculinity and femininity. The retreat will consider the contemporary challenges to being a man and a woman and the Church's wisdom for this, drawing particular inspiration from St Pope John Paul II. Download the brochure : [PDF Flyer](#) OR [JPG Flyer](#)

**For All Adult Laity:** Unveiled Faces: Healing & Transformation with the Saints, 27 – 29 June 2025. A weekend led by Fr Emmanuel Mansford, CFR contemplating the healing and transformational work of grace in the ordinary and imperfect lives of the saints. In the light of their example, the retreat will offer an opportunity to reflect on and to seek healing for the wounds in our own lives. For more information and to book: [click here](#). [Click here PDF flyer](#). OR [Click here for JPG flyer](#).

**For Sixth Form Students: 2025** Leadership programme: applications from LIV / Y12. An inspirational course for those who will shape tomorrow's society, this programme is for students who want to deepen their faith and who want to engage in the public discourse around the common good. The programme offers first class philosophical and theological input from Catholic academics and professionals, workshops in media skills, team building activities, spiritual and personal development, a strong liturgical framework and the opportunity to meet like-minded peers and public figures in a close-knit, fun atmosphere. Delivered over three residential modules in Stonyhurst and in London, the programme concludes with the presentation of certificates, validated by St Mary's University, in Westminster Hall. There are no financial pre-requisites to the programme: subsidies are offered as required for successful candidates. For more information and to apply: [Click here](#). [Click here CLF Flyer - PDF](#) [CLF Flyer - JPG](#)

## Mass Timetable

Date	Times	Where	Intentions
<b>SATURDAY Apr 26th</b> <b>EASTER SATURDAY</b>  <b>-SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) - VIGIL</b>	8:00AM	Mass, Prayer & Reflection at St Peter's	<b>Pope Francis RIP</b>
	11:00 to 12noon	Confession in St Peter's	
	4:30 to 5:00PM	Confession in St Peter's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Katherine Smith
<b>SUNDAY Apr 27th</b>  <b>-SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)</b>	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of William Meader
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Clement Halpin RIP
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	The Soul of Julian Wald
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul Leslie Connolly
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of the Parish
	2:00 - 2:45PM	Confession in St Peter's	
	3:00PM	Divine Mercy Mass in St Peter's	In memory of Gillian Barry RIP
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Friends & Family of Michael Mayhew Arnold
<b>MONDAY Apr 28th</b> <b>St George's Day</b>	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Eugene Murphy's Health & Recovery
<b>TUESDAY Apr 29th</b> <b>St Catherine of Siena</b>	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration & St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at Gregory's	Neil Intentions
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
<b>WEDNESDAY Apr 30th</b>	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration & St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Memorial Mass of St Francis	<b>Pope Francis RIP</b>
<b>THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
<b>FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b> <b>St Athanasius</b>	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	<b>NO Mass at St Gregory's</b>	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Lanterns Nursery
<b>SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> <b>St Philip &amp; St James</b>  <b>-THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - VIGIL</b>	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Lady Mary Mannocho
	9:30 to 10:30AM	Confession at St Peter's	
	4:30 to 5:00PM	Confession at St Peter's	All those doing their exams
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Klara & Leon Trowski RIP

**Confessions** every Saturday 11:00 to 12:00pm and 4:30pm till 5:00pm at St Peter's Church.

**Morning Prayer (open to public)**, every weekday 8:00am and Adoration 'till 9:00am at St Peter's Church. To participate in any service online (including Morning Prayer & Adoration) or to see the recorded services, go to our [YouTube CHANNEL](#). **ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED.**